

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch
Post Office Box 3755
Seattle, Washington 98124-3755
Telephone (206) 764-3495

ATTN: Rebecca McAndrew, Project Manager

Public Notice Date: April 3, 2006 Expiration Date: May 3, 2006

Reference: 200501406

Name: WA State Dept. of Transportation

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for certain work described below and shown on the enclosed drawings.

APPLICANT: Washington State Dept. of Transportation

Northwest Region 15700 Dayton Avenue North

Seattle, WA 98133

ATTN: Ben Brown

Telephone: (206) 440-4528, e-mail: brownbe@wsdot.wa.gov

LOCATION: In Indian Slough, Higgins Slough, and Gages Slough, and wetlands and jurisdictional ditches, which are tributary to the sloughs along five miles of State Route (SR) 20 in and near Burlington, Skagit County, Washington. The sloughs and wetlands adjacent to the sloughs were historically subject to tidal influence. Tide gates on Indian Slough and Higgins Slough, and a levee with a pump station on Gages Slough currently block all tidal influence to the sloughs within the project corridor and proposed mitigation site. The historic connection results in those waters of the U.S. being regulated under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 as well as Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

<u>WORK</u>: The proposed project would add two lanes south of the existing roadway for eastbound traffic and rehabilitate the existing roadway for westbound traffic. A 32-foot wide grass median and 4- foot paved shoulders would separate eastbound and westbound traffic between SR 536 and Pulver Road. From Pulver Road to Interstate 5 (I-5), a paved median would be 9 feet wide with a curb down the center. Intersection improvements would occur at SR 20 and Bradshaw Road, SR 536, Peterson Road, Higgins-Airport Way, Avon-Allen Road, Pulver Road, and Goldenrod Road. If issued, this permit would be valid for 5 years.

The work would fill all or part of 14 wetlands within the project corridor. Nearly all of the impacted wetlands are emergent. Two of the wetlands that would be impacted are forested. The Skagit County Dike District 12 maintains all the sloughs in the project corridor. Work under the Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 jurisdiction includes the following:

- Fill 0.24 acre of emergent wetland
- Lengthen one existing culvert 81 linear feet for 0.01 acre on Indian Slough
- Realign 0.01 acre or 340 linear feet of the existing Higgins Slough channel
- Realign 0.14 acres or 610 linear feet of the existing Indian Slough channel

Work under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act jurisdiction includes the following:

- Fill 6.28 acres of emergent and forested wetland. (Includes the 0.24 acres of wetland fill listed under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 jurisdiction).
- Fill 0.15 acre to realign slough channels (Includes the realigned channel acreage listed under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 jurisdiction).
- Fill 0.03 acre of jurisdictional roadside ditch segments.

Four new bridges would be constructed over Indian Slough, with shading impacts affecting 0.05 acre of emergent wetland and 0.05 acre of Indian Slough. Buffer impacts total 2.20 acres of primarily grass dominated roadsides or agricultural areas (1.50 acres), except the buffer surrounding Wetlands 3 and 8, which includes tree and shrub vegetation (0.70 acre).

<u>PURPOSE</u>: To enhance motorist safety, provide increased capacity, and improve traffic flow on SR 20 between SR 536 and I-5.

<u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>: Functions provided by the impacted wetlands include flood storage, water quality improvement, shoreline stabilization, organic matter production and export, general habitat suitability, habitat for amphibians, general fish habitat, and native plant richness. The principal impacted functions are:

- flood storage
- water quality improvement
- amphibian habitat

MITIGATION: To compensate for the permanent loss of 6.28 acres of wetlands and indirect shading impacts of 0.05 acre to wetlands, WSDOT would create, restore, and enhance over 9 acres of wetlands adjacent to Gages Slough. The proposed mitigation site is a 40 acre-property that is currently farmed and is located about one-half mile from the project corridor.

The proposed mitigation design concept is to construct a depressional/riverine wetland mitigation site with a connection to Gages Slough. The mitigation site would expand the existing functions provided at Gages Slough and would mitigate for the principle wetland functions impacted by the roadway project. The principle functions to be provided include:

- flood storage
- water quality improvement
- organic matter production and export
- aguatic invertebrate habitat
- amphibian habitat
- native plant richness

The proposed plant community would consist primarily of scrub-shrub wetland vegetation with a forested component along Gages Slough and emergent vegetation at the Gages slough connection, though the extent of this community has not been identified. The mitigation site would also have a 100-foot wide buffer along the eastern and southern boundaries. Mitigation for the 0.05 acre indirect shading impact to Indian Slough is being addressed under the Hydraulic Project Approval to be issued by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, requires assessment of potential impacts to listed and proposed species. The Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Puget Sound/Coastal Bull Trout (Salvelinus confluentus), and Puget Sound Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), all listed as threatened in the state of Washington, occur in the proposed project area.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as the lead agency for ESA consultation, has consulted with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as required under Section 7 of the ESA. They have determined that the project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" bald eagles, bull trout, and Chinook salmon. Concurrence was issued on June 24, 2004, from NMFS and July 12, 2002, from USFWS.

<u>ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:</u> The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The proposed action is located in an area that may contain EFH for Pacific salmon.

The FHWA, as the lead agency for a determination regarding EFH, has consulted with the NMFS. They have determined that the project will not adversely affect EFH. NMFS concurred with this finding on June 24, 2002.

<u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>: The FHWA, as the lead agency for determining compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, will consult with the State Historic Preservation Office as appropriate. This public notice initiates consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.4[a][3]), with any Tribe that has information or concerns with historic properties in the proposed permit area.

<u>PUBLIC HEARING:</u> Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

<u>EVALUATION</u>: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for the work. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

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The proposed discharge will be evaluated for compliance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. These guidelines require an alternatives analysis for any proposed discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

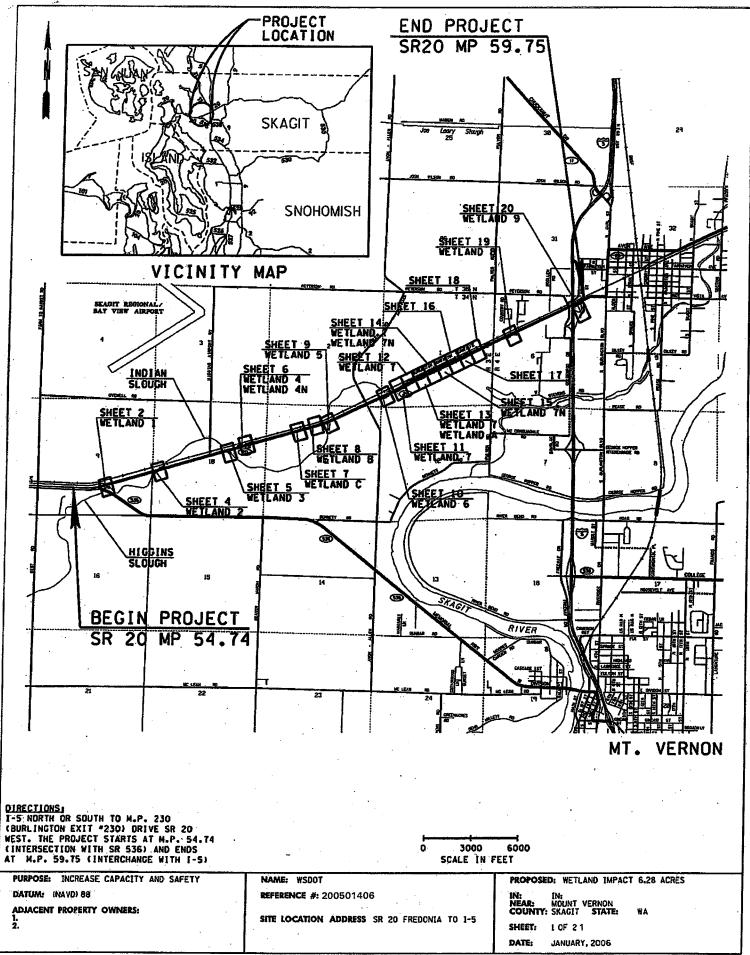
<u>ADDITIONAL EVALUATION</u>: The State of Washington is reviewing this work for consistency with the approved Washington Coastal Zone Management Program and for compliance with the applicable State and Federal water quality standards pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Skagit County is the local government entity implementing the Shoreline Management Act (SMA) regulation in the project vicinity. The applicant has stated that the project is outside of SMA jurisdiction.

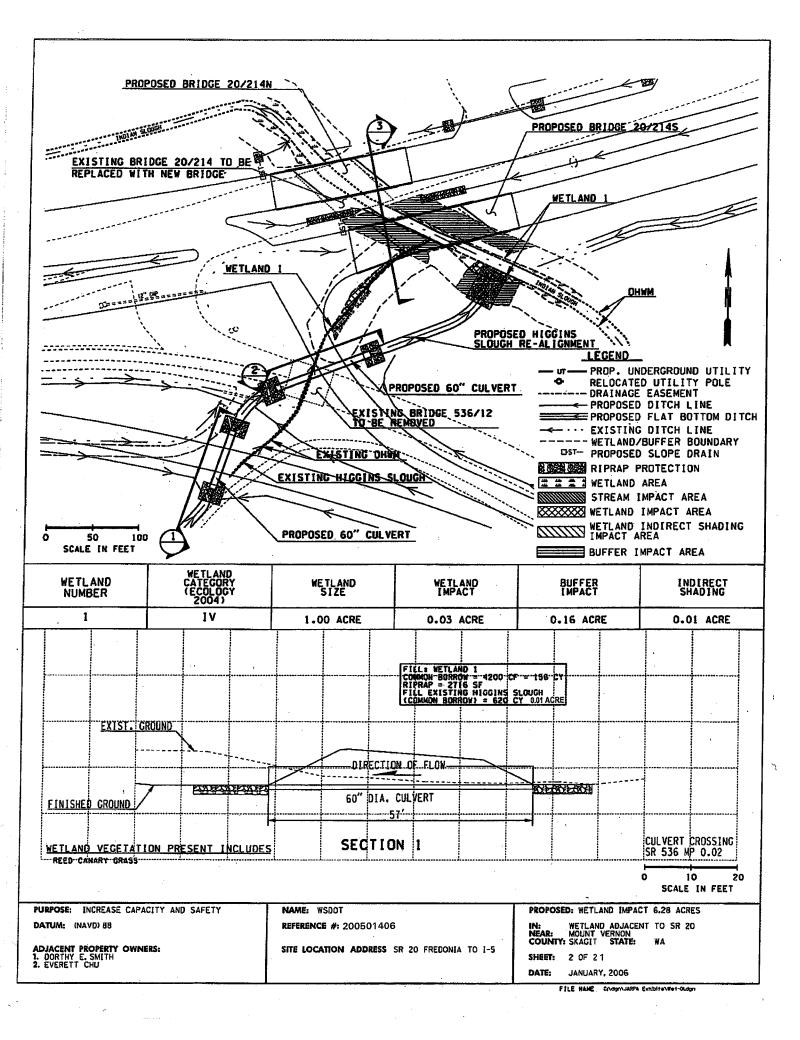
COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD: Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether it would be in the public interest to authorize this proposal. In order to be accepted, e-mail comments must originate from the author's e-mail account and must include on the subject line of the e-mail message the permit applicant's name and reference number as shown below. All e-mail comments should be sent to Rebecca, E.McAndrew@nws02.usace.army.mil. Conventional mail comments should be sent to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Attn: Rebecca McAndrew, Post Office Box 3755, Seattle, Washington, 98124-3755. Both conventional mail or e-mail comments must include the permit applicant's name and reference number, as shown below, and the commentor's name, address, and phone number. All comments whether conventional mail or e-mail must reach this office, no later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration. Please include the following name and reference number:

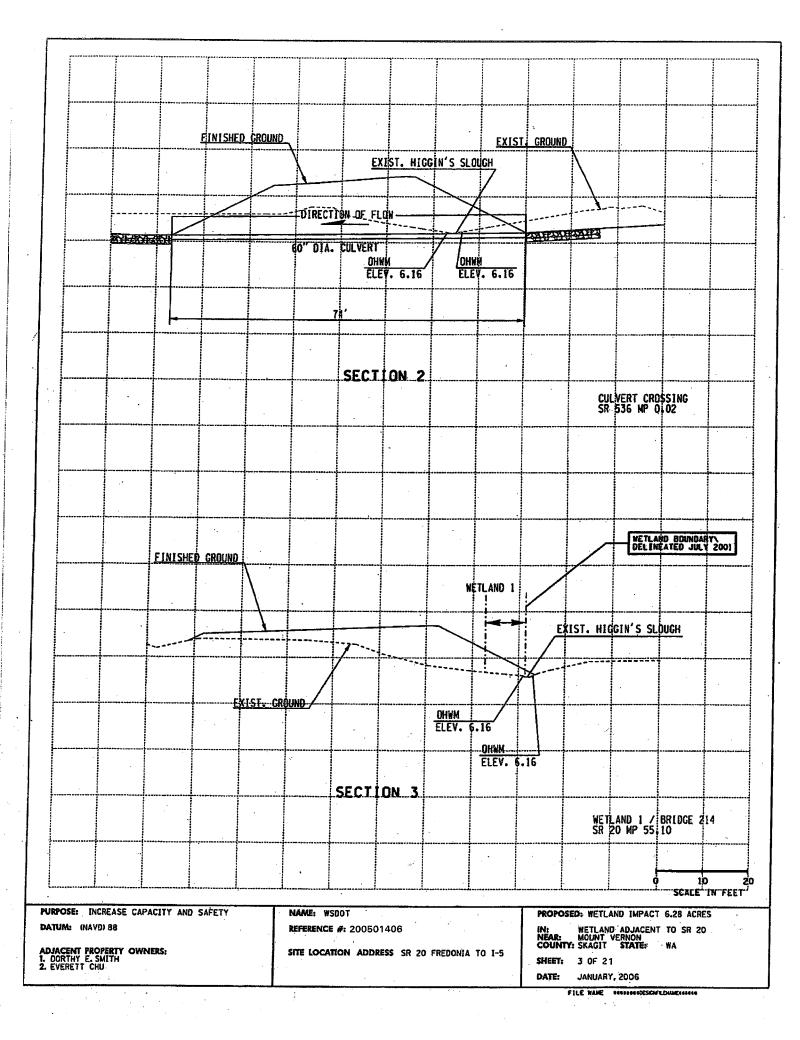
Washington State Dept. of Transportation, 200501406

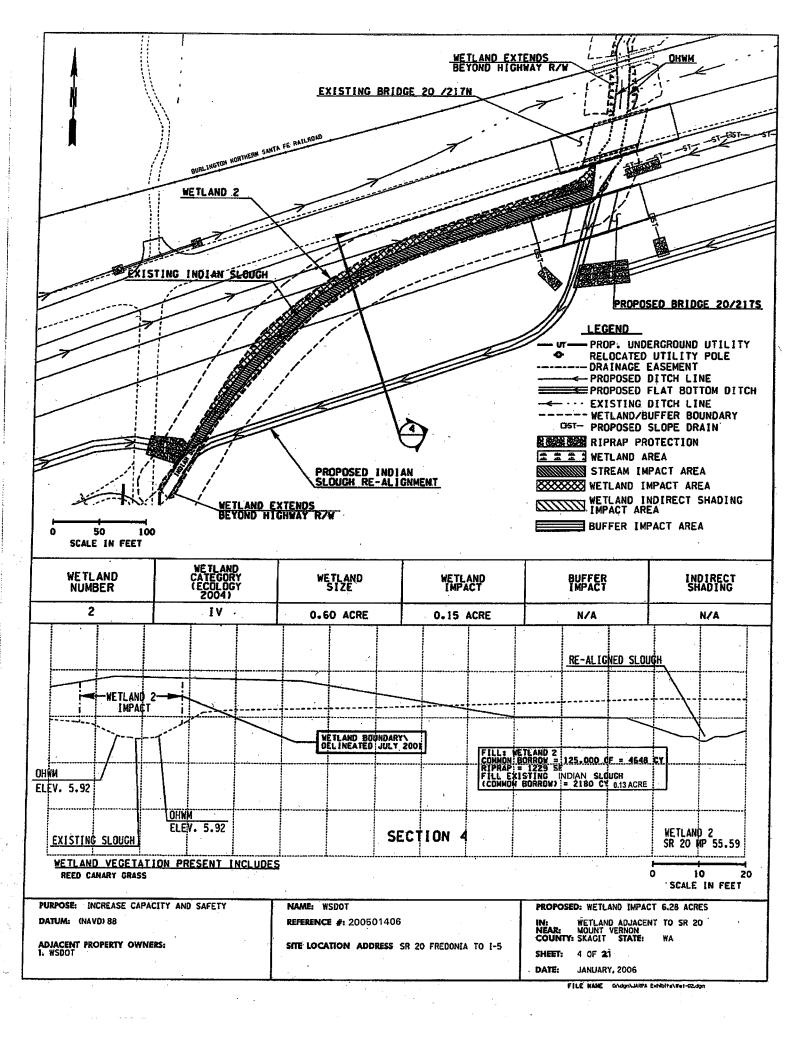
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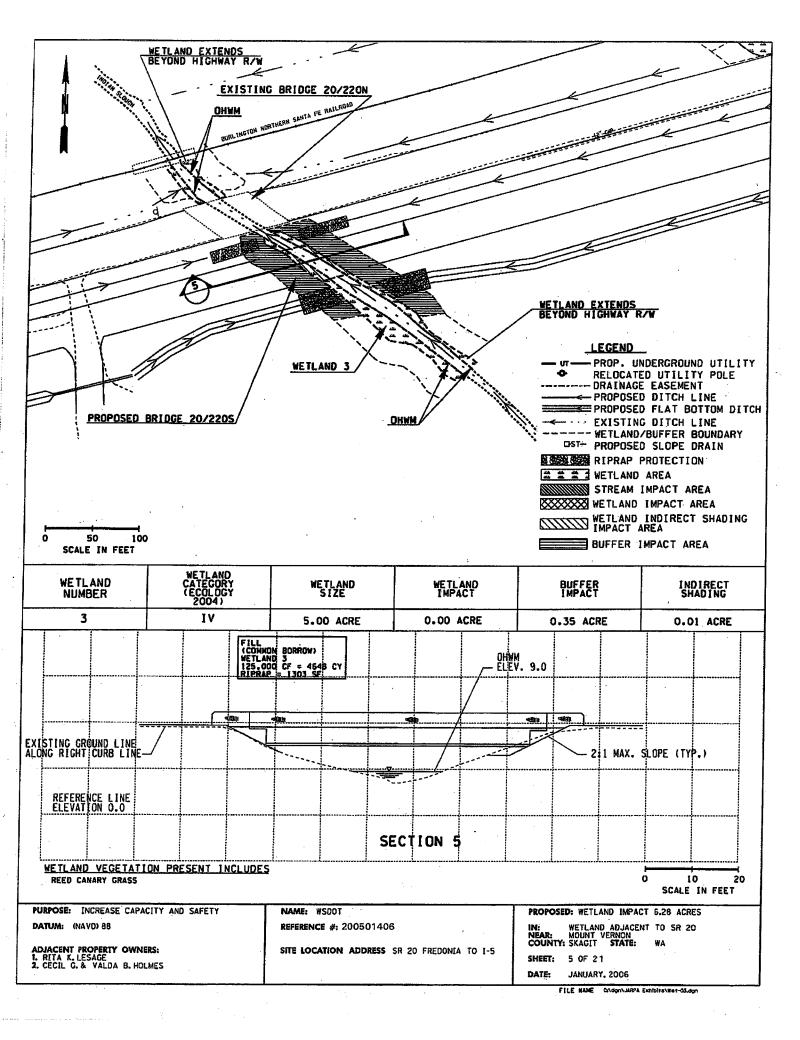


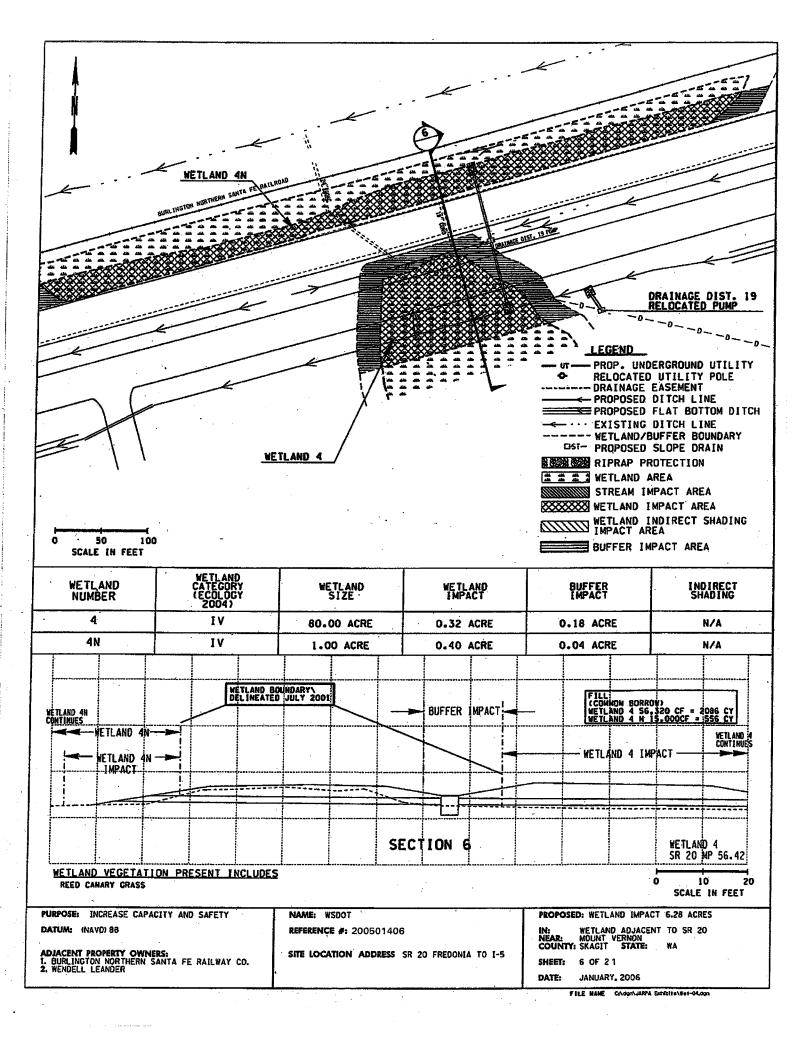
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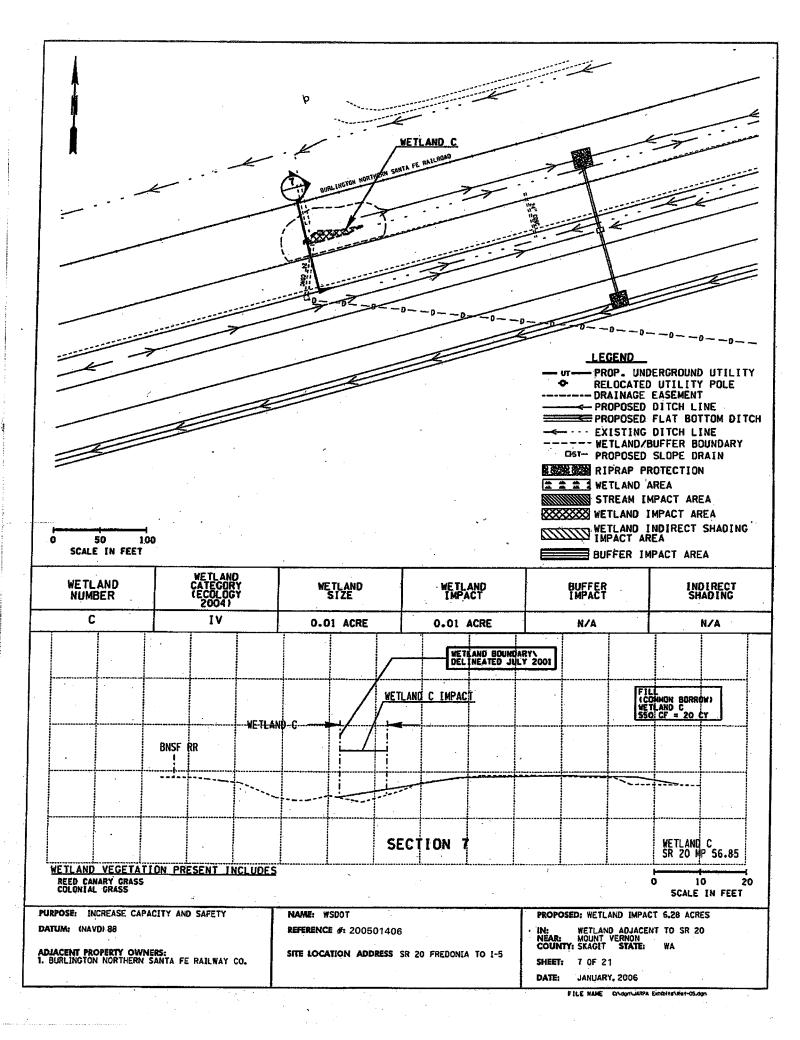


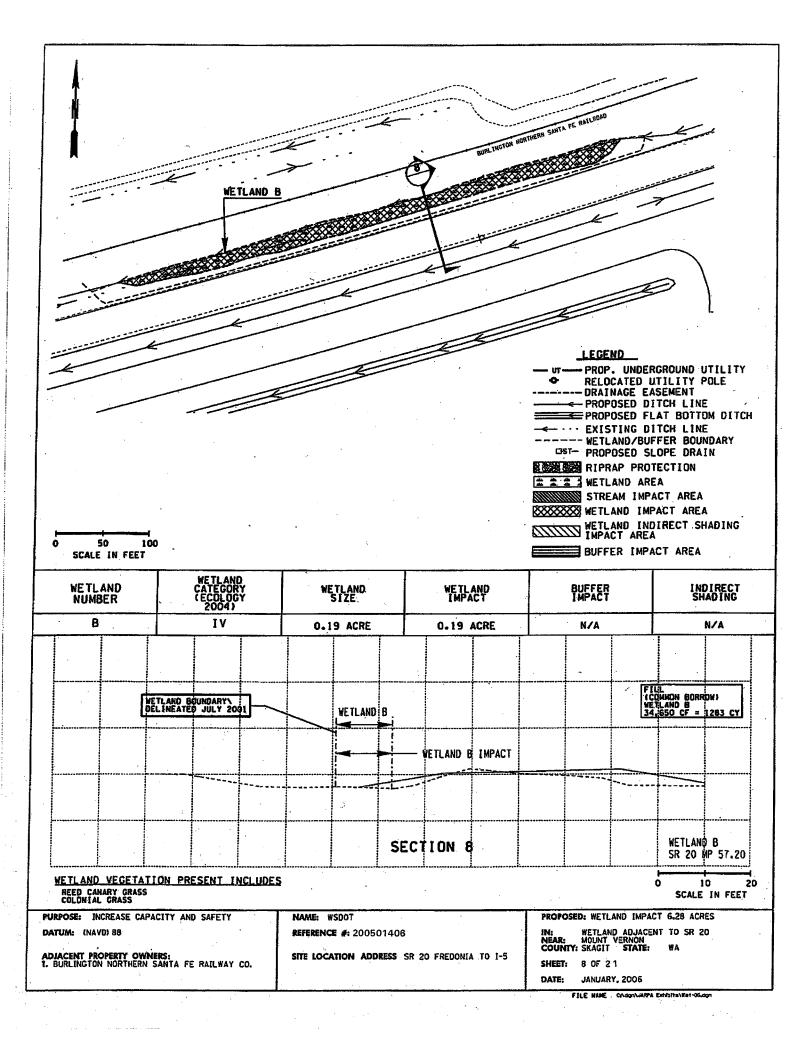


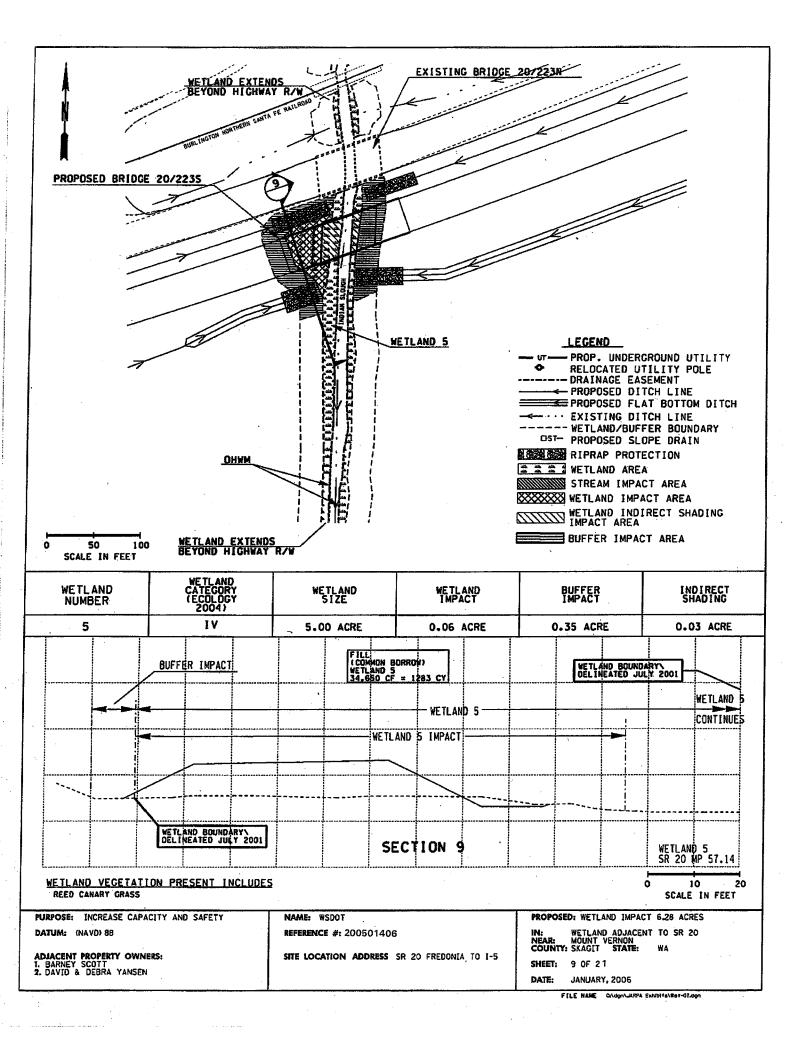


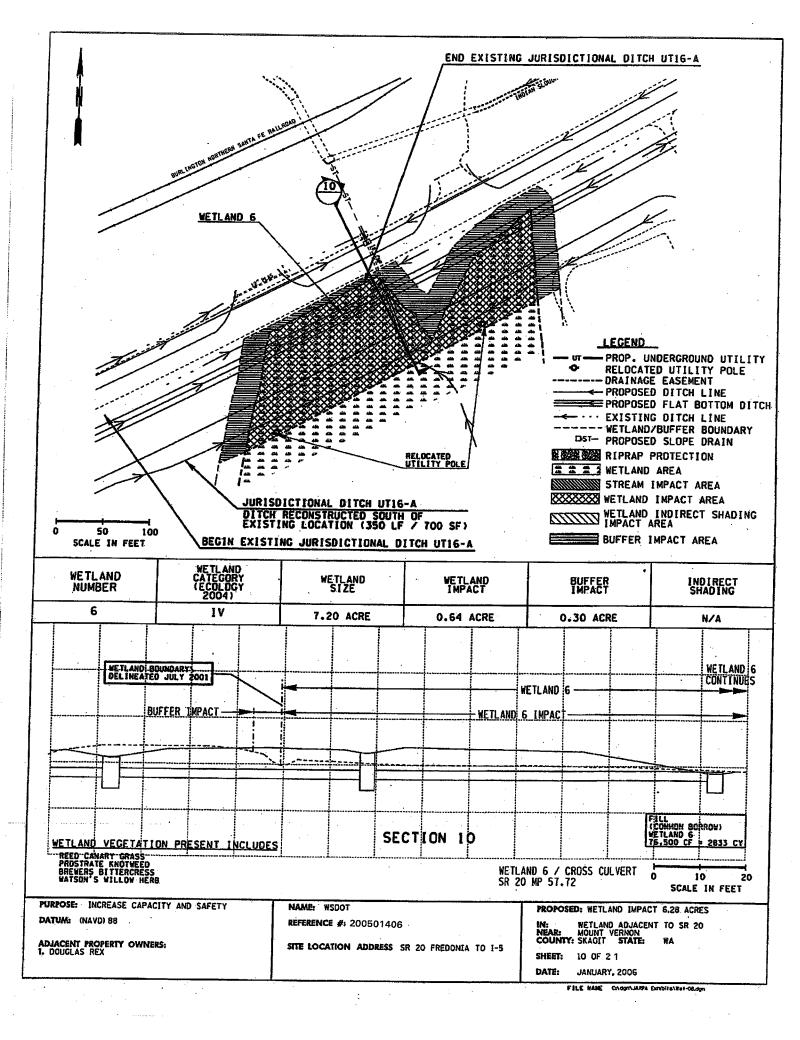


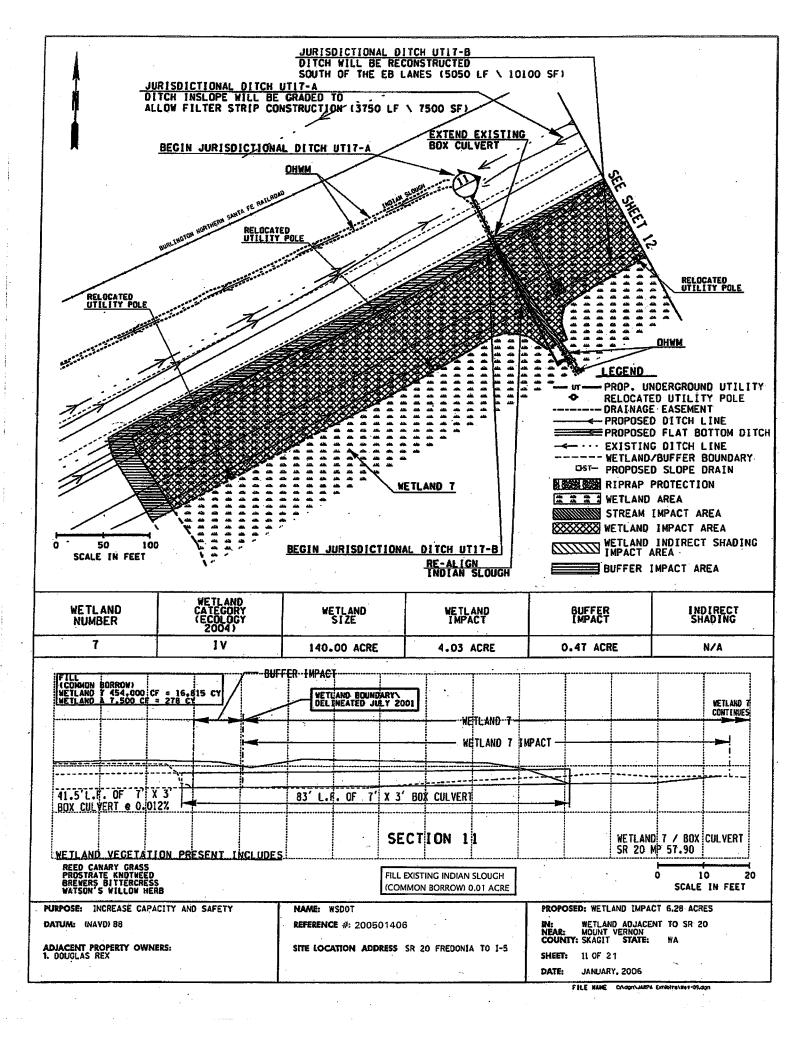


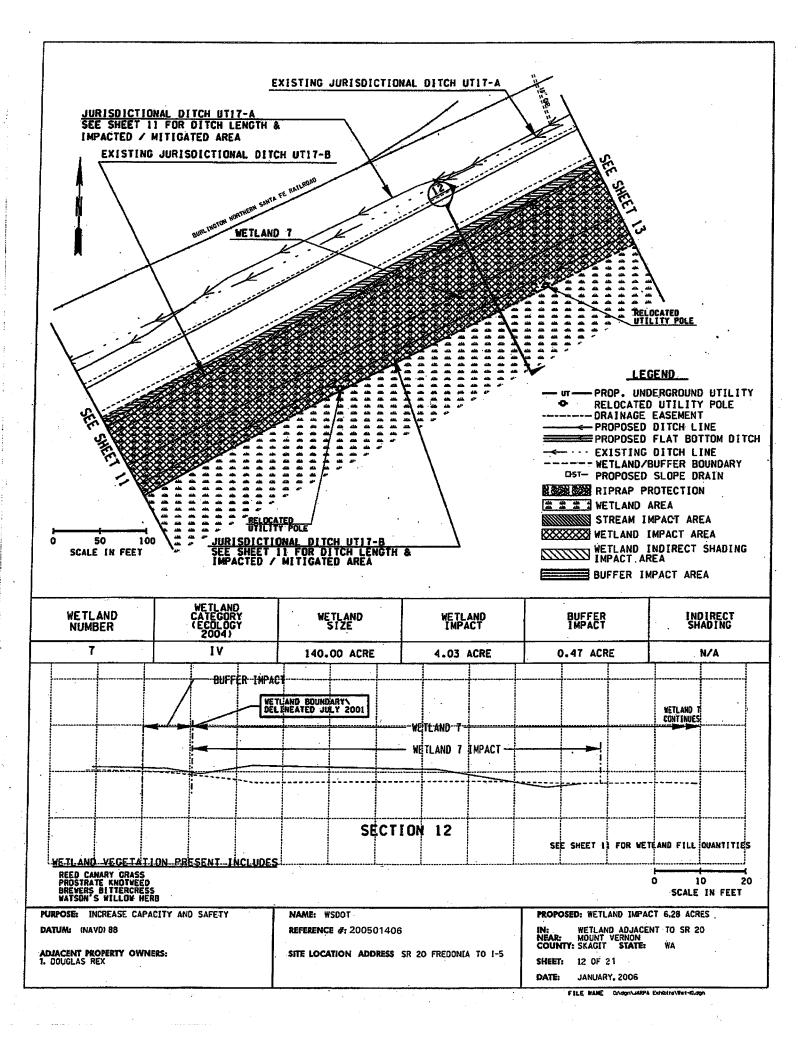


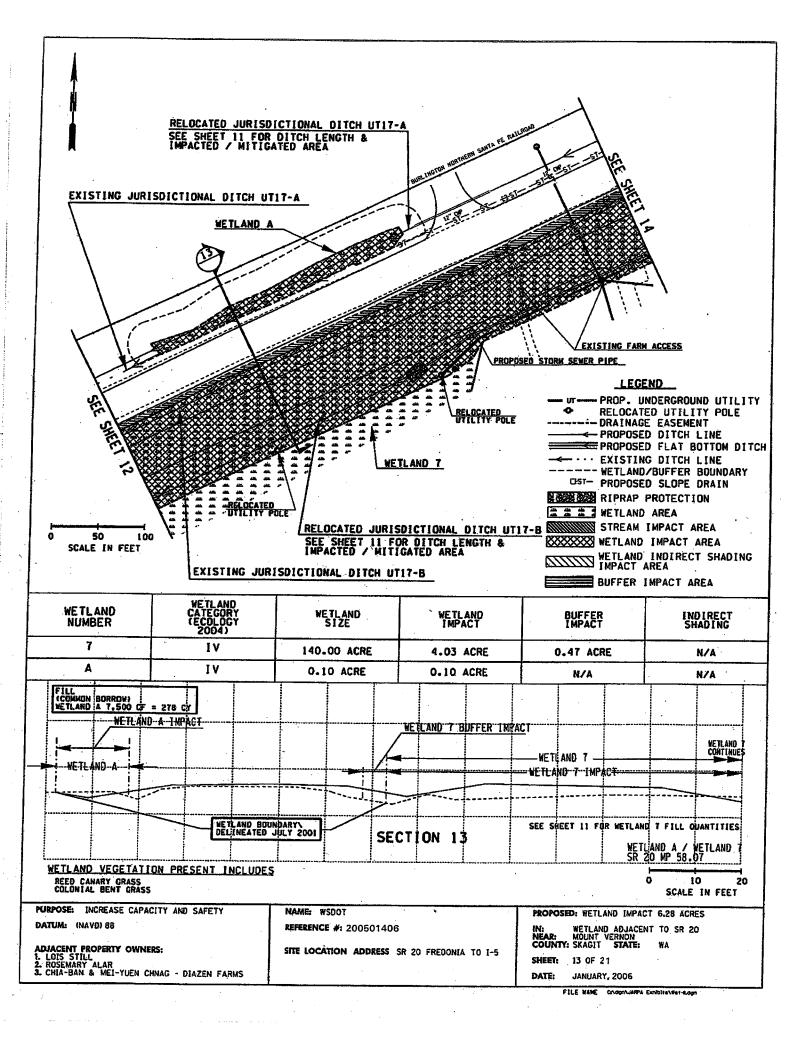


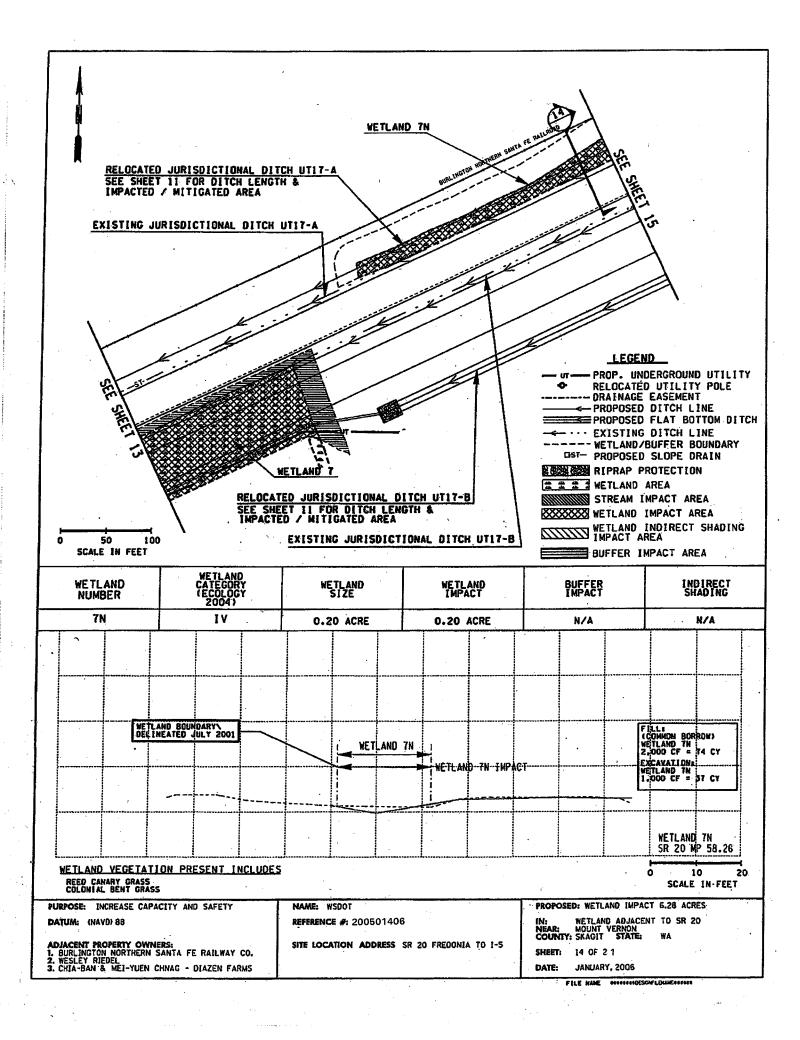


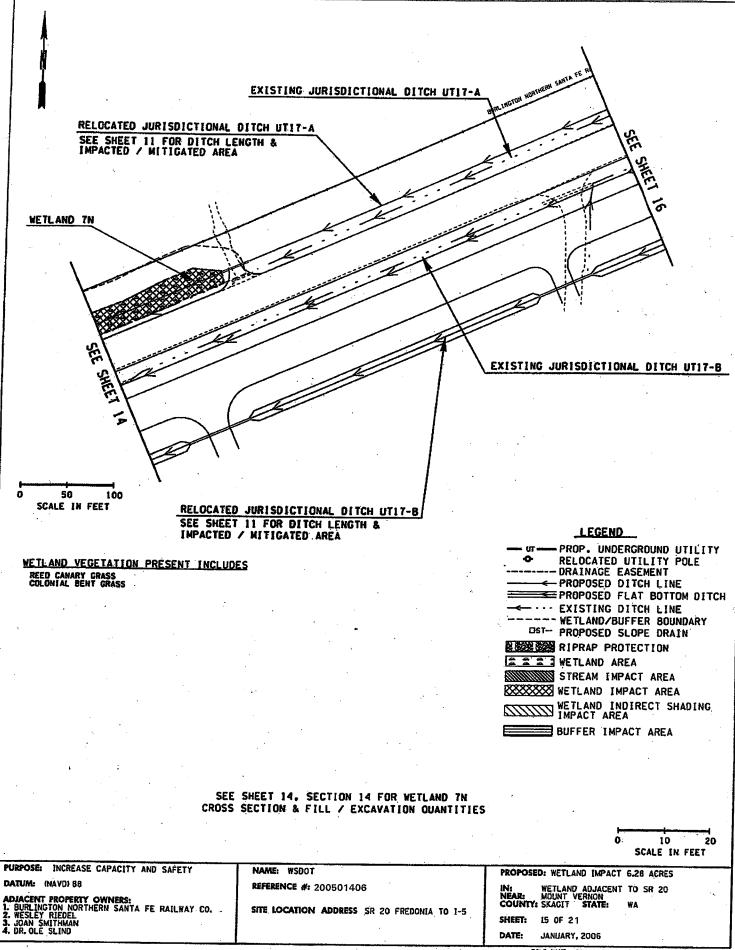


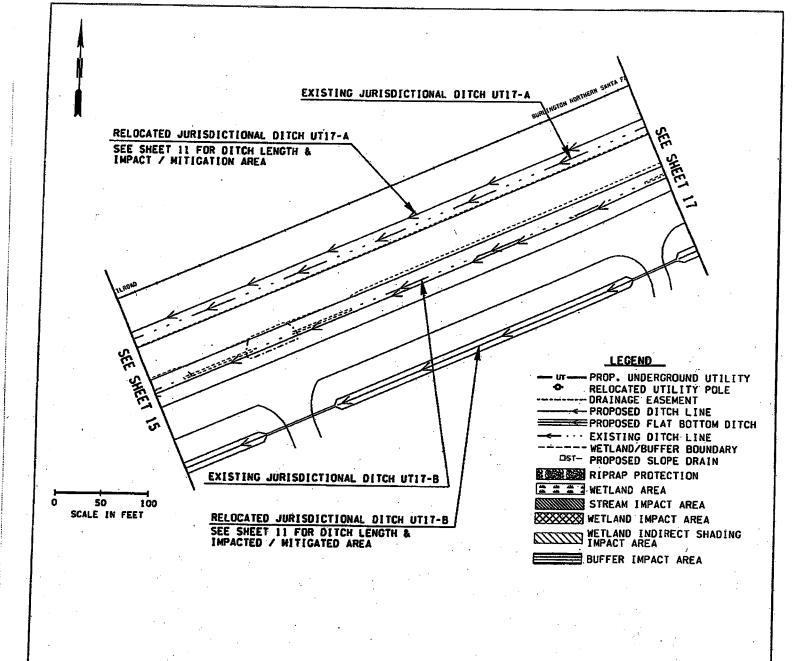












10 20 SCALE IN FEET

PURPOSE: INCREASE CAPACITY AND SAFETY DATUM: (NAVD) 88

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

1. BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE RAILWAY CO.

2. WESLEY RIEDEL

3. JOAN SMITHMAN

4. OR. OLE SLIND

NAME: WSDOT

REFERENCE #: 200501406

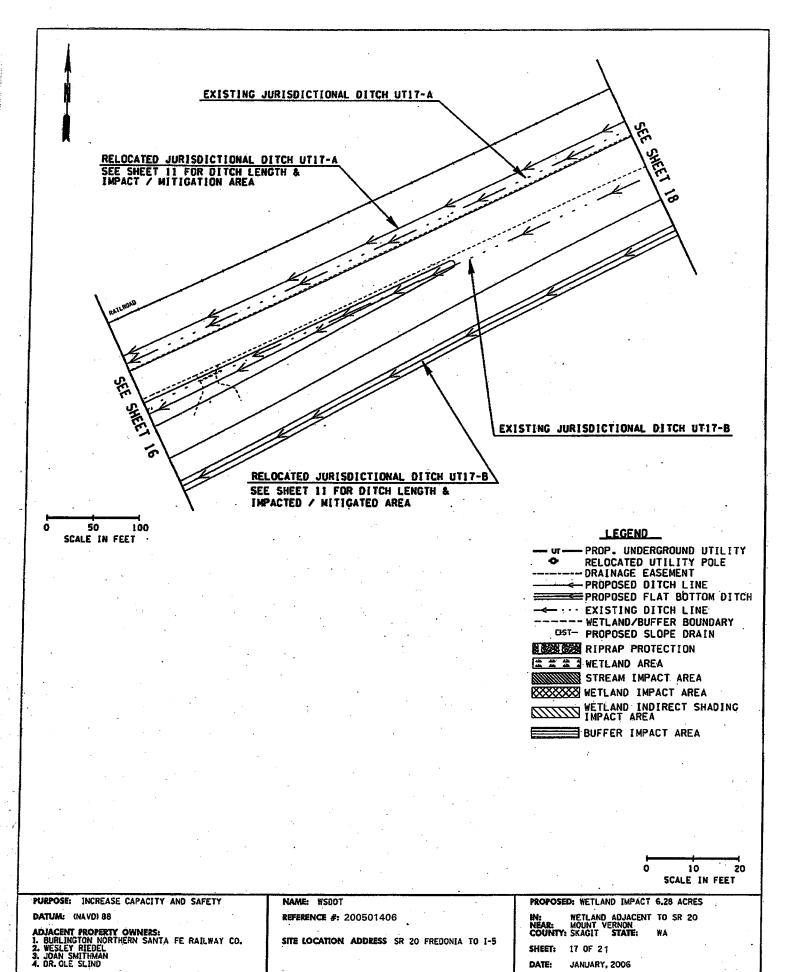
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PROPOSED: WETLAND IMPACT 6.28 ACRES

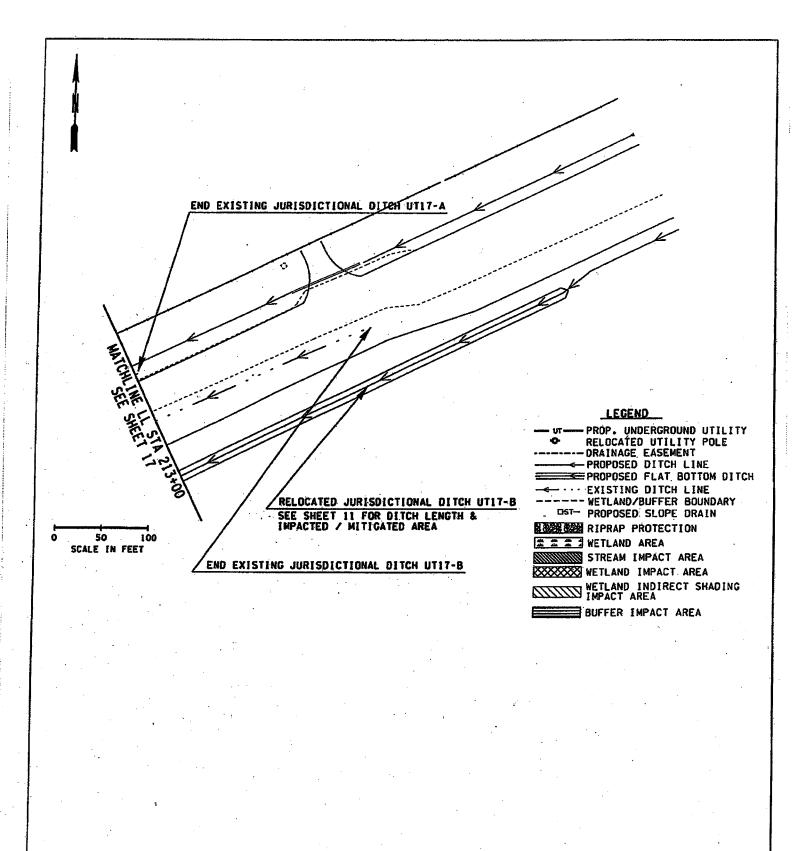
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NEAR: MOUNT VERNON
COUNTY: SKAGIT STATE: #A

SHEET: 16 OF 21

JANUARY, 2006



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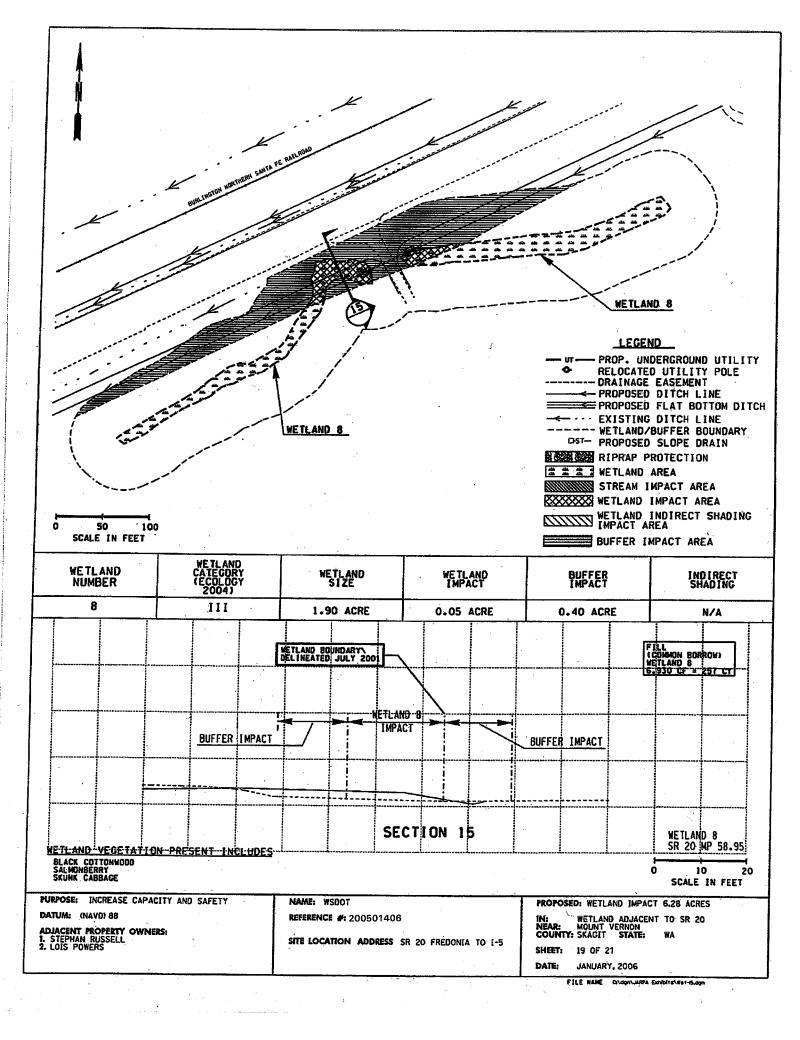
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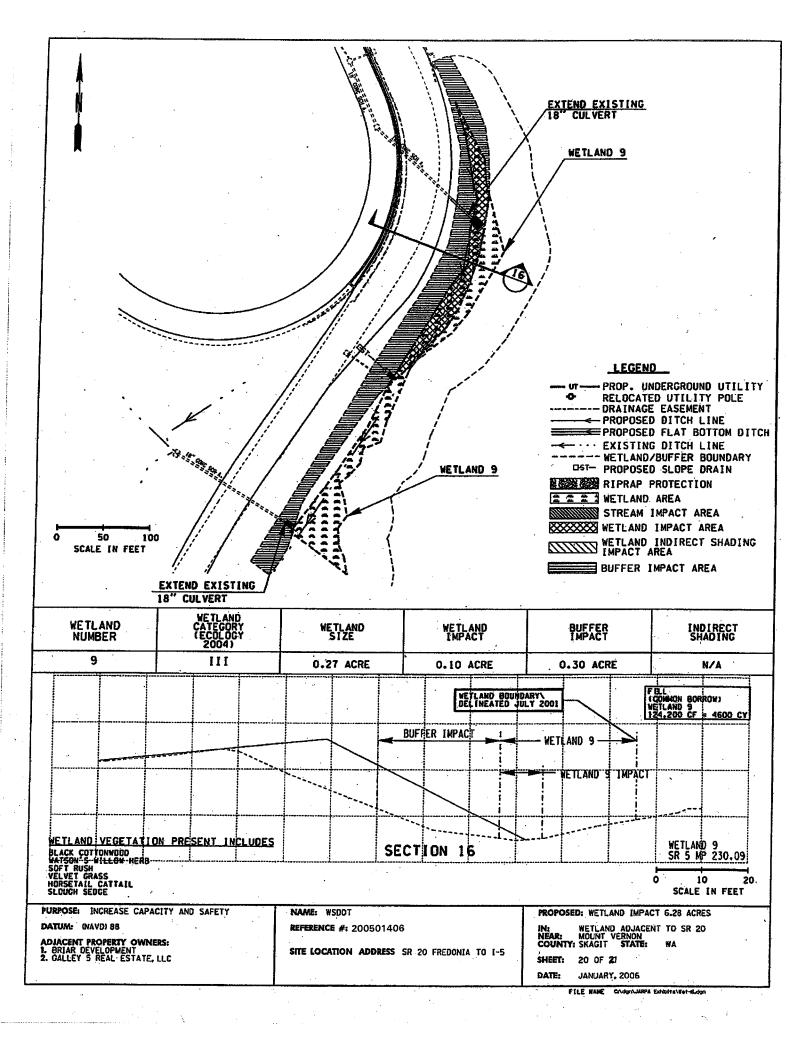
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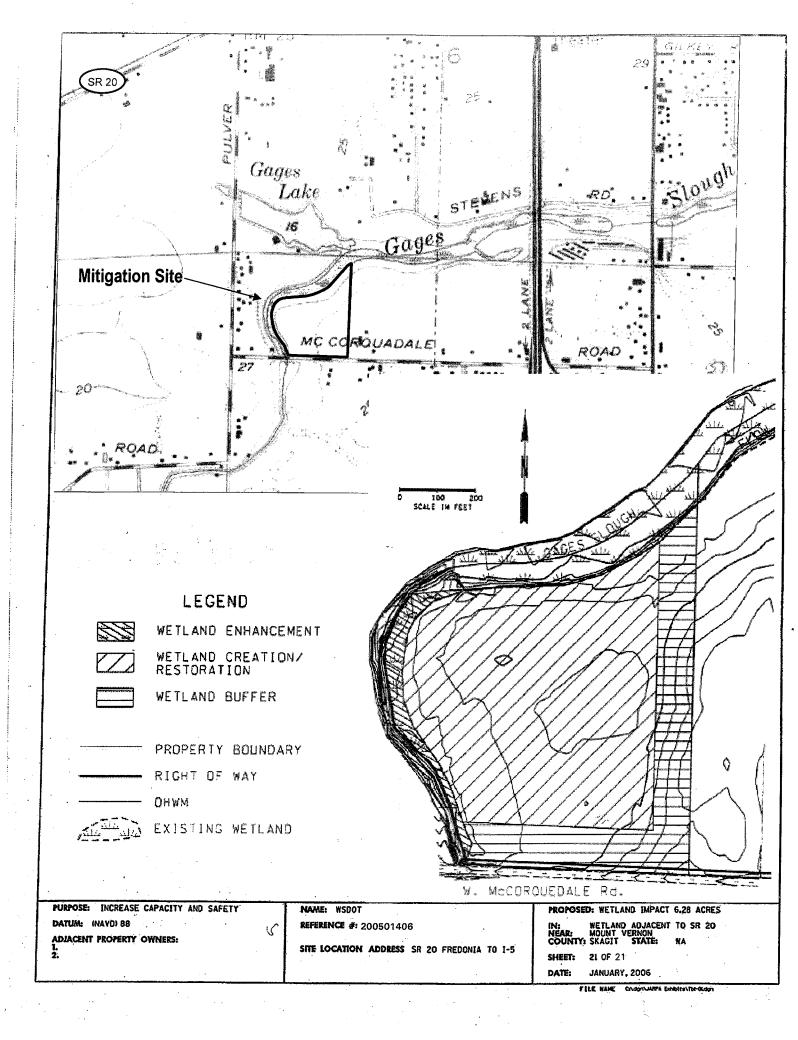
IN: WETLAND ADJACENT TO SR 20
NEAR: MOUNT VERNON
COUNTY: SKAGIT STATE: WA

SHEET: 18 OF 21

DATE: JANUARY, 2006









STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600 (360) 407-6000 • TDD Only (Hearing Impaired) (360) 407-6006

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Notice of Application for
Water Quality Certification
and for
Certification of Consistency with the
Washington Coastal Zone Management Program

Date: April 3, 2006

Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217), to certify that the project described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. 200501406 will comply with the Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Act, and with applicable provisions of State and Federal water pollution control laws.

Notice is herby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 307© of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451), to certify that the above referenced project will comply with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to the project on either or both (1) compliance with water pollution control laws or (2) the project's compliance or consistency with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program may do so by providing written comments within 30 days of the above publication date to:

Federal Permit Coordinator
Department of Ecology
SEA Program
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600